



Roding Valley
HIGH SCHOOL

Home Learning Policy

September 2017

Reviewed: September 2017

Approved: 23rd November 2017



Principles

Home learning makes a major contribution to students' progress at school. It extends the challenges open to each student and ensures that teaching time is used to maximum effect

Whilst home learning is no longer a statutory requirement, the DFES had previously published recommendations about the maximum amounts of home learning that should be set for secondary students:

- **Years 7 and 8:** 45 to 90 minutes per day
- **Year 9:** 1 to 2 hours per day
- **Years 10 and 11:** 1.5 to 2.5 hours per day

Home learning is seen as an integral part of the school day. In the Home-School Agreement, the school aims to 'set and mark home learning on a regular basis, according to the Home Learning Policy and monitor home learning through the use of Show My Homework'. Parents / carers support the school by, 'monitoring their children's study at home and Show My Homework enables parents to see all homework that is set across the school and notifications through the App will inform parents when homework is unsatisfactory or not submitted.

Purpose of Home Learning

Well-organised home learning assignments:

- Encourage students to become independent learners, developing research and problem solving strategies, and study skills to prepare them for life-long learning
- Give students frequent and increasing opportunities to consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding developed at school
- Extend school learning, for example, through additional reading
- Sustain the involvement of parents and carers in the management of students' learning and keep them informed about the work students are doing
- Help students to manage particular demands such as GCSE Controlled Assessment and revision
- Contribute to higher standards of work and enable students to strive towards targets set and accelerated progress for all
- Enable focused revision strategies to help memory and recall as pupil prepare for linear GCSEs in the 9-1 Curriculum.

Application of the Home Learning Policy

The Home Learning Policy is led by Senior Management as part of the school's overall Teaching and Learning Strategy.

There are high expectations of students in completing home learning. Work of quality, rather than necessarily quantity, is expected

Roding Valley High School Home Learning Policy



- Teachers will explain tasks set so that students and parents/carers are very clear about what they need to do
- Home learning assignments are carefully planned as integral parts of schemes of work
- There is consistent practice within and across curriculum areas in setting, managing and marking home learning. Individual departments will provide more detailed guidance based on this common framework
- Teachers will record Home Learning using Show My Homework
- Heads of Faculty will report termly to SLT in the HoFs meeting with regard to the setting and completion of Home Learning. Show My Homework will generate reports for this purpose.
- The school will provide a variety of out-of-class study opportunities for students to participate in.
- Well-organised home learning assignments:
 - Sanctions for unsatisfactory or non-completion of home learning are administered initially through curriculum areas, with tutor and YPL involvement to trace any recurring patterns
 - Failure to complete Home Learning is recorded on Show My Homework by subject teacher
- Parents / carers will be notified of any serious home learning problems

The Role of Parents/Guardians

Parents / guardians can support the school and their child's home learning by providing appropriate support as they move through the school. Particularly parents/Guardians are encouraged to:

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, secure place in which students can do their home learning

Roding Valley High School Home Learning Policy

- Make it clear to students that they value home learning, and support the school in explaining how it can help them make progress at school
- Encourage students and praise them when they have completed home learning
- Expect deadlines to be met and check that they are:
 - Engage with Show My Homework through the Website or APP to monitor student's home learning.

Where parents /guardians are concerned about home learning issues they should contact the subject teacher, in the first instance, or the tutor in the case of a generic concern or difficulty with the use of Show My Homework.

Setting Home Learning

- To ensure that home learning tasks are clearly understood by all students, they should be set well before the end of the lesson and published on Show My Homework.
- Tasks may need to be broken down into discrete stages to support the less able while extension work, which is not simply more of the same, should be available for students needing extra challenge
- These strategies must be clearly detailed in schemes of work so that home learning is a coherent part of the work being done



- In setting home learning for students with special educational needs, it is important to balance the rights of students to share fully in the work of the class, including home learning tasks, with their individual learning needs. These needs may include consolidation and reinforcement of specific skills
- Teaching Assistants may help further to interpret tasks for students with special educational needs and there is a Home Work Club in The Zone after school where support is available.
- Home learning should be marked in line with the school Marking Policy and recorded as 'submitted' or 'Not submitted' within one week of the homework deadline.

Content of Home Learning Assignments

It is very important that a range of home learning types is set and assignments should cover a variety of skills, e.g.:

- Reading for information Investigations Knowledge & understanding Interviews Application Drafting
- Pattern finding Revision Design
- Drawing Research skills Designing
- Analytical skills Making models Roding Valley High School Home Learning Policy

Tasks must aid the development of the student. It is important that staff set a home learning with particular skills in mind and that students are aware of assessment criteria before they complete a home learning task.

Teachers may use a 'flipping the classroom' technique whereby pupils are asked to look into topics ahead of their classroom learning. Where this is the case, pupils must be aware of this and be guided on how to find the information out.

Students need to be aware of the standard required; it is beneficial to provide students with sample essay answers or go through a research project, so they are aware of how to extract significant information.

- Home learning must be differentiated to allow every student the opportunity to achieve, regardless of ability or band. There will be a range of home learning written into the work schemes which cater for different needs
- Students should be given help with study skills by subject staff as well as within tutor periods
- Home Learning should develop independent learning using programmes such as Doodle, My Maths, GCSE pod, Google Classroom and other directed websites
- It is vital that there is liaison between subject staff in the same department, particularly where there is a shared group in order that students do not become overloaded on a particular evening. This will also prevent duplications.
- The Home Learning Timetables will be published on the website

Home Learning- Key Stage 4

- Home learning for Years 10 and 11 must follow the minimum guidelines as detailed in [Appendix A](#) and be set as appropriate to ensure the minimum of good progress of students. Home learning should match the pupils' individual needs
- In certain subject area's students will start the Key Stage 4 curriculum in Year 9 and hence will follow [Appendix A](#) for home learning expectations



Monitoring Home Learning

- Heads of Faculty and Heads of Year will monitor home learning by using Show My Homework Reports as part of their job descriptions.
- Subject teachers will monitor the quality and completion of students' home learning and apply the School Rewards and Sanctions Policy to home learning issues.
- As part of their regular review of students' work, the School Leadership Team will check student exercise books, along with the Head of Subject.
- Home Learning is an area that will be included in the rolling programme of Subject Area Reviews as part of the whole School Improvement Programme
- Evidence of regular and appropriate Home Learning is part of all lesson observations

Controlled Assessment (Years 10-11)

- The Controlled Assessment schedule will be decided by the appropriate Senior Manager, after consultation with Curriculum Co-ordinators. It is vital that dates are not changed by staff
- When a Controlled Assessment deadline is approaching, the teacher who has set the Controlled Assessment should not also expect the usual Home Learning for that week. To do so would add extra pressure.

E- Learning

- With the growth in e-learning, staff are encouraged to set some home learning tasks which encourage students to use a variety of ICT applications, for research as well as for writing up tasks
- The method employed should be appropriate to the task, and the time given for the home learning
- It should be remembered that, whilst school surveys show that a large number of students do have access to ICT and / or internet facilities at home, this is not universal. Equal opportunities should be considered at all times, however students can use the Home Learning club held in the library for extra support and to find the resources that they may need to complete the home Learning
- The library is open from 7.15am each morning and from 3.15-4.15pm after school every day except Tuesdays. The Learning Zone offers extra support to students.